In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A subscriber unit for use in a distributed voice recognition system, comprising:

a feature extraction module configured to extract a plurality of features of a speech signal;

a voice activity detection module configured to detect voice activity within the speech signal and provides an indication of the detected voice activity; and

a wireless transmitter coupled to the feature extraction module and the voice activity detection module and configured to transmit to a speech recognition device over a wireless network the indication of detected voice activity ahead of the plurality of features.

2. (Currently amended) A subscriber unit for use in a distributed voice recognition system, comprising:

means for extracting a plurality of features of a speech signal;

means for detecting voice activity with the speech signal and providing an indication of the detected voice activity; and

a wireless transmitter coupled to the feature extraction means and the voice activity detection means and configured to transmit to a speech recognition device over a wireless network the indication of detected voice activity ahead of the plurality of features.

3. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 1, further comprising a means for combining the plurality of features with the indication of detected voice activity, wherein the indication of detected voice activity is ahead of the plurality of features.

4. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 2, further comprising a means for combining the plurality of features with the indication of detected voice activity, wherein the indication of detected voice activity is ahead of the plurality of features.

5. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting speech activity in a distributed voice recognition system, comprising:

extracting a plurality of features of a speech signal;

detecting voice activity within the speech signal and providing an indication of the detected voice activity; and

transmitting to a speech recognition device over a wireless network the indication of detected voice activity ahead of the plurality of features.

6. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting speech activity in a distributed speech recognition system, comprising:

extracting a plurality of features of a speech signal;

detecting voice activity with the speech signal and providing an indication of the detected voice activity; and

combining the plurality of features with an indication of the detected voice activity, thereby creating a combined indication of detected voice activity and features, wherein the indication of detected voice activity is transmitted to a speech recognition device over a wireless network ahead of the plurality of features.

7. Canceled